

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

II-10

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Masonic Templeother names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 206 East Washington Boulevardn/a not for publicationcity, town Fort Waynen/a vicinitystate IN code IN county Allencode 003 zip code 46802

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

n/aNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meetin Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

NEO-CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestonewalls STONE: Limestoneroof CONCRETEother n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

☒ See continuation sheet

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Masonic Temple

The Masonic Temple is located in Fort Wayne, the seat of Allen County, and the second largest city in Indiana, with a population approaching 200,000. Fort Wayne is located at the confluence of the St. Mary's, St. Joseph, and Maumee Rivers in the northeastern part of the state. The Masonic Temple is located at 206 E. Washington Boulevard, near the southeast corner of Washington and South Clinton, in the city's downtown. The building is one of the few remaining historic structures on Washington in the downtown area. Formerly, the 1917 YWCA was located just east of the Masonic Building, which is partially visible at the far left in photos 1 and 2, and at the far right in photo 4. Demolition on the YMCA began in May and has recently been completed. To the west of the Masonic temple, where a parking lot can be seen in photo 1, was the 1924 Scottish Rite Cathedral. This was demolished in the last few years. Across the street to the north and catty-corner are new high rise office towers. There is a large, concrete parking garage on the west side of Clinton south of Washington.

The Masonic Temple is an eight and half story steel frame structure with concrete floors and roof, and brick and tile walls. It is faced in smooth Indianan limestone. The building is rectangular in plan, with the short end facing north on Washington. It is Neoclassical in style and monumental in scale. The building's character is most richly defined on its main facade (photos 2 and 3). This face of the building, which is seven bays wide, is perfectly symmetrical. Wide entablatures divide it into three sections: the base, upper stories, and the attic. The base contains the raised basement, the first floor, the mezzanine, and the second floor. In each of the end bays at the basement level, there is a tall window opening with a wood, double hung sash. In each of the adjacent bays, there is a shorter, like window. At the top of the shorter windows, there is a stone band which encompasses the building. There is a similar, encompassing stone band above the taller basement windows. Atop this band, above each of the taller windows is a stone, pedimented head. Between the band that defines the upper level of the basement, and the first floor entablature, stone is laid with a wide recess between courses, giving the base of the building a definite horizontal orientation. In the center of the base is the building's grand entryway. This entrance is accessed by a set of 11 steps with an intermediate landing. The steps are flanked by low stone walls which extend in height to the level of the first floor. Each of these walls is surmounted by a stone column topped by an orb. The entrance itself is three bays wide. There are three doors. The center door is flanked by fluted Doric columns. These, and two square columns, one on each side

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of the entry, support an entablature decorated with triglyphs and metopes with medallions, and surmounted by antefixes. There are eight small, square windows with stone sills, four on each side of the entry, in the base of the building. These are in line with basement windows, with four just under the first floor entablature, on the top (eighth) stone course, and four below, on the third stone course. In these square windows is a design composed of a cross and an X. In the center of each end, between the square windows, is a tablet with the Masonic Compass and G symbol.

The middle section of the building contains the third through seventh stories. The five middle bays are composed of smooth, Ionic columns, alternating with window openings. Openings in the third through sixth floors have paired, double hung windows. These were all originally wood. All but those on the sixth floor have been replaced with metal. Windows on the seventh floor are fixed metal windows divided vertically into three parts. There are two windows on each of the end bays. On the lower part of each bay is a vertical, rectangular window with designs like those on the square windows in the base. Above each of the rectangular windows is a window which is identical, except that it also has a square transom. On the frieze of the entablature between the middle section and the attic are three rectangular panels alternating with four medallions with the symbols of the four lodges originally housed in the building. Above the rectangular panels of the frieze, at the attic level are three pairs of windows. Above these is the attic entablature, which is surmounted by antefixes.

The east and west facades are almost identical. Neither of these facades was designed for high visibility, since the view would be blocked by existing buildings: the YMCA on the east, and the Scottish Rite Cathedral on the west. On both facades, the stone is laid like that on the facade, and the entablatures are continued. In the northern two bays of both facades, there are windows on most floors. These are double hung windows, some wood, some metal replacements. In the third through sixth bays from the north, there are no windows below the third floor on the west facade. The reason there are no windows on the base of the building is that, when the building was first constructed, there was a large connection to the Scottish Rite Cathedral. When the latter was demolished, the west end of the Masonic Temple was filled in. On the east facade, there are large windows on the second level, which is the location of a lounge. On both the east and west, between the base of the building and the seventh floor, there are no windows. This is the location of the lodge

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rooms. On both facades, there are windows on the seventh floor on all bays except the southernmost. In the middle section, pilasters alternate with window bays along the length of the facade. On the frieze of the entablature between the seventh floor and the attic, are sets of three windows alternating with medallions. The windows are on the upper part of a two story auditorium. At the attic level are three paired windows, alternating with stone panels, evenly spaced along the facade.

The rear facade (photo 4) is similar in design to the east and west facades. There are several large square windows on the base of the rear facade. Several of these are blocked up. In the middle section, there are no windows. As on the east and west facades, there are pilasters evenly spaced across this section. On the attic level, there are two sets of two windows in the middle, with a single window on each end. At the top of the building, on the southwest corner, there is a rectangular stone structure and polygonal flue, with stone banding.

Inside the building, on the first floor, there is a lobby that runs the width of the north end of the building (photo 5). At the west end of the lobby are a pair of elevators. Off the east end is a stairwell, the lobby is decorated in the Greek Doric style, with massive columns, an frieze with triglyphs and metopes, and antefix decorations. Most elements of the lobby are polished marble. The original bronze, Craftsman era light fixtures are intact. In the center of the south side of the lobby is a makeshift wood structure which houses a reception office. This structure detracts from the character of the space.

To the rear of the lobby is a large banquet hall, also used as a ballroom. This room has coffered ceilings supported by large, round wooden columns. On the east and south sides, there is a mezzanine which overlooks this room (photo 6). At the rear of the first floor is the kitchen, which retains most of its original Craftsman era cabinets and moldings. On the second floor, as on all floors, there is a lobby off the elevator, and a corridor extending across the north side of the building. The floors in these areas are terrazzo. Most of the second floor serves as a lounge (photo 7). This room has coffered ceilings supported by large, square columns. There is recessed lighting in each panel of the ceiling. At the south end of this floor is a paneled meeting room.

The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth floors are very similar on the north end of the building. There is, on each floor, an elevator lobby and a corridor that accesses small meeting rooms

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and restrooms. On the third and fifth floors, there are also anterooms for the large lodge rooms which occupy the rear five bays on the building. There are four lodge rooms, on each on the east and west sides of the third and fifth floors. The lodge room on the west side of the third floor is called the Corinthian Room (photo 8). Among decorative elements of the room are coffered ceilings, Corinthian columns, and a medallion-decorated frieze around the perimeter of the room, at about mid-level. There are wooden chairs with leather seats built in on the east and west sides of the room. Original brass light fixtures are intact. The carpet has been woven with the Compass and G symbol. On the north side of the room, there is a raised platform. On each side of this platform is a column surmounted by an orb. A balcony above is accessed from the fourth floor. There are two doors leading into the anteroom from the lodge room, on each on the east and west ends of the north side. These are wood paneled doors with label mold surrounds. In the center of the room, there is a wooden alter. At the south end is another raised platform.

The other lodge rooms are very similar in size, arrangement, and so forth, but vary in decoration. On the east side of the third floor is the Ionic Room. As the name suggests, the ornamentation in this room is based on the Greek Ionic style. On the west side of the fourth floor is the Egyptian Room (photo 9). This room has Egyptian decoration. There are wood and leather benches on the east and west walls. There is a platform on the south end of the room. At the rear of the platform is a large arch supported by square columns. The last lodge room is the Colonial Room, located on the east side of the fifth floor.

The asylum, or auditorium, occupies most of the seventh and eighth floors of the building (photo 10). The room is accessed from anterooms on the north side. There are several rows of stepped, auditorium type seating around the perimeter of the room. The base of the seating is carved panels. On the north side of the room is a stage with a large, segmental arched opening. The most striking thing about this room is the ceiling. There are heavy, carved wooden trusses running the width of the room, and spaced evenly along its length. These are imposed on a wooden grid of heavy beams attached to the ceiling. The original brass light fixtures are also intact in this room.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1926 - 1940

Significant Dates

1926

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

WEATHERHOGG, Charles A. (Architect)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

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The Masonic Temple is significant under Criterion A as the home, from 1926 to the present, of an important Fort Wayne social institution, and as one of the few remaining local buildings associated with 19th and early 20th century fraternal orders. The building is also significant under Criterion C as a major work of a leading Fort Wayne architect, Charles R. Weatherhogg, and as one of a few examples of the Neoclassical style remaining in the city.

Modern Masonry has its roots in the guilds of masons in medieval England. These early masons were the builders of the great cathedrals. After the Protestant Reformation, a decrease in membership led to the admittance of honorary Masons. By the early 18th century, when Masonry came to the United States, it was purely a social organization, with no ties to the profession of masonry. Today, Masonry is the oldest and largest of fraternal orders in this country, and the one on which most other organizations of its type are modeled. Masonry can be classified as a men's club, and as a benevolent society, which provides assistance to members and their families. The fraternity and its ceremonies are characterized by ritual, secrecy, symbolism, and an interest in antiquity.

In Indiana, the first Masonic lodge was organized in 1809 at Vincennes. The fraternity spread quickly, and at the start of the Civil War, there were over 270 lodges in existence. The popularity of the fraternity can be explained by looking at the social needs of pioneers in the Indiana wilderness. Settlers were eager to recreate the social institutions they had left behind. Churches fulfilled their needs to some degree. For the men, Masonry was a brotherhood, strengthened by secrecy and ritual. It gave them an opportunity to form the kinds of alliances - in business, social life, and politics, for example, that help determine the course of a society.

The oldest Masonic lodge in Fort Wayne is Wayne Lodge. It was originally chartered in 1823, but this charter was later suspended. Another charter, granted in 1840, was also suspended. The reasons for suspensions are not known. Many Indiana lodges had difficulty getting started in the early days. In many cases, this difficulty was due to a nationwide anti-Masonic movement which was strongest in the 1830s and 40s.

The present Wayne Lodge was chartered in 1849. The first Wayne Lodge reportedly met for five years within the palisades of the Old Fort. Later meeting places included Washington Hall, the County Seminary, and the Allen County Courthouse. As in Fort

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Wayne, these types of meeting places were typical for early Indiana lodges. There are records of lodges in other cities and towns that utilized inns, taverns, grist mills, garrets of residences, and school houses.

The first known Masonic temple in Indiana, built specifically for that purpose, was a two story log structure, constructed in 1822 for Union Lodge at Madison. Tipton Lodge at Logansport was one of the first lodges to construct a brick building, in 1829. Wayne Lodge in Fort Wayne also constructed a brick temple in 1829. This building, which was located on the northeast corner of Columbia and Harrison, was sold in 1833.

Between the years of 1850 and 1870, Fort Wayne's population grew rapidly, from 5,382 to 17,718. During this period, three new lodges were organized. These were Summit City Lodge, chartered in 1855, Sol D. Bayless Lodge, chartered in 1867, and Home Lodge, chartered in 1870. By 1870, Wayne Lodge was renting space in the MacDougal Block, which was located on the northwest corner of Calhoun and Berry, and subletting it to Home Lodge and other Masonic groups. This building was destroyed by fire in 1958. In 1886, construction a new Masonic Temple was completed on the northeast corner of South Clinton and East Wayne Street, which was commissioned by the Masonic Temple Association, formed in 1879. After this building was destroyed by fire, plans were developed for the present temple. The cornerstone was laid in 1923, and the building was completed in 1926. The Fort Wayne city directory for that year shows the tenants of the new building to be the four established lodges, a new Maumee Lodge, two chapters of Eastern Star (the women's branch of Masonry), and two York Rite chapters, an advanced degree of Masonry.

Membership in Fort Wayne Masonic lodges has varied. During periods of economic depression, membership dropped because of the inability of many to pay dues. This was true in the 1870's and in the 1930s. Conversely, in war time, membership swelled, presumably because of the benevolent aspects of the fraternity. During the years of World War II, the membership of the lodges which occupied the Fort Wayne Masonic Temple was over 10,000. The population of Fort Wayne at the time was about 120,000.

Masonic law says that anyone who professes a belief in God may seek membership. In fact, historically, the composition of the membership of Masonic lodges has been white, protestant, and middle class. The values of that segment of society - industry, respectability, temperance, and conservatism - parallel Masonic values. An examination of the occupations of Masters (a lodge

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office) of Home Lodge between 1895 and 1940 revealed clerks, foremen, a teacher, secretaries, lawyers, a tinner, salesmen, a machinist, and assistant to the City Engineer, an auto repairman, a police lieutenant, and a detective sergeant.

In Fort Wayne, as in the nation in general, the Masons were the oldest and largest of the fraternal orders. Among similar organizations in the city at the time the present temple was constructed were the Odd Fellows, who met in the Odd Fellows Hall (111 W. Berry); the Elks, who met in Elks Hall (a neoclassical building which was located on the northeast corner of West Berry and Maiden Lane); the Knights of Pythias, who met in their Renaissance Revival lodge building at 122 Washington Boulevard; the Knights of Columbus, who met in a building on the southwest corner of Calhoun and Washington; and the Moose Lodge, which met in a building on the northwest corner of Wayne and Webster. Of these buildings, only the Knights of Pythias Building survives. Dehm's Hall, which was once located at 1104 Calhoun (demolished), was the meeting place of a number of small fraternal orders. The Scottish Rite Cathedral, which was built in 1924 and located adjacent to the Masonic Temple (southeast corner of Washington and Clinton) has been demolished. App Hall at 916 Calhoun, another meeting place for smaller lodges, is extant. Only one other extant historic fraternal building has been identified. This is the Mizpah Shrine Temple, a building of Moorish design, located at 431 W. Berry. The architect of this 1928 building was Guy Mahurin.

The designer of the Masonic Temple, Charles R. Weatherhogg (1872-1937), was the leading Fort Wayne architect between about 1910 and 1930. Weatherhogg was a native of England who settled in Fort Wayne in 1893 after coming to the United States to visit the Chicago World's Fair. Weatherhogg had studied in the office of an architect in England for three years. From 1893 to 1897, he was in partnership with Arthur Grindle, another local architect, who later moved to Muncie. Among extant Fort Wayne buildings designed by Weatherhogg are: Central High School, a Neoclassical style building, constructed in 1903, and located at 1218 S. Barr; Fort Wayne Paper Box Company Building, an Italianate structure, located on the northwest corner of Calhoun and Superior; Cathedral Boys School, a Tudor Revival style building, constructed in 1915, and located at 1102 S. Clinton; The Blackstone Building, a Neoclassical style building, constructed c. 1920, and located at 112 W. Washington (NRHP, 1988); Fairfield Manor Apartment Hotel, an Arts and Crafts style building, (NRHP, 1983); and The Journal Gazette Building, first constructed in 1907 and remodeled by Weatherhogg in the Arts and Crafts style in 1927 (NRHP, 1982).

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Other Weatherhogg buildings, about which less information is available, have been determined to be extant in Fort Wayne. These include the Perfection Biscuit Company, Fort Wayne Country Club, Harrison Hill School, Northside High School, James Haberly House, and Irene Byron Sanatorium. Weatherhogg also designed the Jasper County Courthouse, and the Carnegie Library in Rensselaer. A number of Weatherhogg buildings have been demolished including People's Trust and Savings Bank, Home Telephone and Telegraph Company, Wolf and Dessauer Building, Anthony Hotel, Keenan Hotel, Moose Building, Achduth Vesholom Temple, Catholic Community Center, Young Men's Christian Association, and the William Noll House.

The Masonic Temple survives as one of Weatherhogg's largest and grandest designs in Fort Wayne. It is also one of a small number of Neoclassical style buildings still existing in the city. Central High School and the Blackstone Buildings have already been mentioned as examples of the style designed by Weatherhogg. Other Neoclassical style buildings in Fort Wayne are the First National Bank, commonly known as the Commerce Building (123 W. Berry), the Shoaff Building, designed in 1909 by R.M. Snyder (801 S. Calhoun); Federal Building, designed in 1931 by Guy Mahurin (1300 S. Harrison); and Lincoln Life Insurance Company, located at 1301 S. Harrison.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than One Acre

UTM References

A

1	6
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6	5	15	5	1	0
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4	15	4	18	8	1	0	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot #103 and the East half of Lot #104, Hanna's Addition

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the historic and present boundary of the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization n/a date August 6, 1990

street & number 3905 No. 500 West Road telephone 812/372-6806

city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

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